

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19

SCI-06 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 301105Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, AS, VN, VS

SUBJECT: VISIT TO VIET CONG-CONTROLLED ZONES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

REF : SAIGON 12452

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY INFORMED US SEPTEMBER 30 THAT THREE-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL ARRIVE IN HANOI EITHER OCTOBER 16 OR 19 EN ROUTE TO VIET CONG OCCUPIED AREA OF SOUTH VIET-NAM (PRESUMABLY NORTHERN QUANG TRI PROVINCE WHICH ABUTS DMZ AND NORTH VIET-NAM). APPARENTLY A NUMBER OF AUSTRALIANS WERE APPROACHED REGARDING VISIT BY A HANOI "PEACE COMMITTEE" WORKING THROUGH THE (AUSTRALIAN) ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DISARMAMENT.

2. THREE WHO ACCEPTED INVITATIONS ARE: JIM RALSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE AMALGAMATED METAL WORKERS UNION OF VICTORIA AND A SENIOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE VICTORIAN BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY (ALP); MS. MARIE GIRDLER, A MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY STUDENT; AND BRENDON O'DWYER, EDITOR OF THE "DEVELOPMENT NEWS DIGEST", A PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID (ACFOA). O'DWYER'S OFFICE REPORTEDLY TOLD DFA THAT HE WOULD BE TRAVELING IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY AND NOT REPRESENTING
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ACFOA. DFA SAID THAT NO FIRM ITINERARY FOR THE VISIT IS AVAIL-

ABLE.

3. AUSTRALIANS HERE REPORT THAT DFA WILL EMPHASIZE THAT VISIT IS NOT IN ANY WAY SPONSORED BY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRESS QUERIES ARISE. DFA REPORTEDLY ADVISED EMBASSY HERE TO ISSUE SHORT STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE.

MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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